

Minutes of May 9, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 9 a.m., Chairperson Kathrens, Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Brenner were present. Deputy County Clerk Tara Peek recorded the minutes.

Republican Party Chair Mark Murnahan joined the meeting to inform the Board of County Attorney Shawna Miller's resignation. He stated that the committee will be meeting soon and he just wanted the BOCC to be aware.

At 9:02 a.m. Commissioner Brenner made a motion to enter into executive session for personnel matters with Chad Phillips and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 9:07 a.m. No action taken. Chad submitted a maintenance renewal agreement with McElroy's for approval. Chairperson Kathrens asked Chad to discuss the issues he has been having with the service manager and to seek bids for next year. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve Agreement 2022-08 McElroy's Maintenance for Courthouse and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Holton Recorder reporter Ali Holcomb joined the meeting. 3Rivers Inc. Executive Director Audrey Schremmer joined the meeting to request a 2023 appropriation of \$1,200.00. 3Rivers is a non-profit agency serving people with disabilities. They provide employment training and support programs in a 12-county area. She reported that in 2021 their agency provided vocational services to 9 county citizens. They have also handled requests for legal services, assistive technology, housing, life skills training, referral services, transportation, preventive services, physical restoration and personal assistance services totaling 2,945 requests in Jackson County during 2021.

Appraiser Kate Immenschuh joined the meeting to discuss the current zoning regulations regarding wind and solar energy.

Banner Lake Director Kurt Zibell joined the meeting. He reminded the Board of the upcoming Strader Davies Run at the lake. He reported that his new mower has not been delivered yet and they have no estimated time for shipping. He also was informed that the Kawasaki Mules he had ordered months ago are now not going to be fulfilled due to parts supply issues. Kurt reported that he is unable to meet the minimum order requirements from his ice vendor due to lack of storage. He is now seeking an estimate for leasing an ice machine to bag his own ice and sell. All restrooms and showers are running properly with hot water since the mixing valve has been replaced. He has been seeking trade in values for his skid steer and has scheduled a demonstration for a JCB tracked skid steer. Kurt also reported that all the leaking hydrants have been replaced.

Adjourned for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Public Works Director Scott Kieffaber and Road and Bridge Superintendent Eric Fritz joined the meeting. They submitted new bids for chip seal as follows:

- Harbour Construction Inc. \$286,528.00
- Approved Paving LLC \$335,034.00

Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve the low bid from Harbour for \$286,528.00 and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Scott has arranged for an ad to be in the paper this week for seasonal mowing positions. Eric reported that dust control has been applied on F Road. They discussed an area near 278 and D Roads where the terraces have diverted more water to the ditches than they can handle. The drainage is causing road wash out issues. The Board directed them to contact NRCS to see if they can be of assistance. Commissioner Brenner asked about O Road and 222 Road and Eric stated that he has looked at the concerns but they are still on the list to be addressed. Commissioner Brenner also asked him to contact a property owner about his dust control and grading of his road.

Jackson County resident Marilyn Watkins joined the meeting to express her support for the EMS services provided by Techs, Inc. She stated that she felt the communication needed to be better with EMS and the County. She added that local people care about local people and the current EMS provider has been in business for 22 years with employees who are taxpayers and have kids who attend schools in the county. Marilyn stated that the residents want to be informed and the meeting minutes should be more in depth. She added that the county has the best EMS and that they have roots that run deep, they care about the county, go above and beyond and are well trained. County Counselor Lee Hendricks explained the history of conversations that the Board has had with EMS since they requested more funding last year. He stated that the BOCC has a duty to the citizens of the county to stay within the budget and that the request was made while still in a contracted agreement for services after the budget was finalized. Marilyn asked the Board if they have a heart for the county. Commissioner Kelly stated he wasn't going to answer that question and Chairperson Kathrens replied that they wouldn't be in their positions as Commissioners if they did not. Marilyn also stated that people's lives are more important than other things the board spends hours working on. Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Brenner stated that they have made contact and have discussions with EMS, including offering them \$50,000.00 from ARPA funding to purchase equipment and supplies. The Board explained that they are seeking bids for services in 2023 that are apples to apples comparable. Any company chosen to provide the services will be required to be located in the county, whether by purchase or lease.

At 1:49 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel with Lee Hendricks and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 1:59 p.m. No action taken.

County Attorney Shawna Miller joined the meeting to give her notice of resignation to the Board. She stated her last day would be June 1st. She added that her Assistant Attorney Jeff Morrow will be the interim until the committee makes a selection for her replacement and she will remain available by phone. Shawna stated that she has served for many years and although she has loved the position, it is time to move on. She stated that she will be joining a firm in Topeka and that it has been an honor working for Jackson County.

At 2:07 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session for matters of personnel with Shawna Miller and Lee Hendricks present. Commissioner Brenner seconded and motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 2:14 p.m. No action taken.

Youth Services Director Brooke Smith joined the meeting to discuss the newly revised Kansas Department of Corrections pay plan. Brooke explained that when submitting grant paperwork to fund her four-county department, the JCAB board requested funding at the highest level and it has now been awarded. County Counselor Lee Hendricks added that the wage increases are an attempt to balance the inequity in pay for these positions and is completely funded through the State of Kansas Department of Corrections, not county tax dollars. Commissioner Kelly recommended following the JCAB board's suggestion on salaries for the Youth Services department. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to increase Youth Services Director Brooke Smith's salary to \$90,676.00 and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the purchase of EMP units from EMP Shield for a total of \$21,854.00 from ARPA funds and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Commissioner Brenner moved to rescind the previously approved vote to accept the recommendation of the JCAB board to increase the salary for Youth Services Director Brooke Smith and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to increase Youth Services Director Brooke Smith's salary to \$90,676.00 and Chairperson Kathrens seconded. Motion carried 2/1. County Clerk Kathy Mick joined the meeting to present reports requested by the Board for the Sheriff's income from housing prisoners. She provided totals for 2018 through 2021 and the average for the four years was \$810,000.00.

At 4:19 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session with Lee Hendricks to discuss personnel and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 4:26 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to empower Chairperson Kathrens with the authority to address an employee issue including termination if necessary and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Approved an Emergency Vehicle Designation application for Dylan Folk.

Approved Change Orders 2021-192 through 194.

Approved a Courthouse Lawn Use request from Jackson County Farm Bureau to serve hamburgers on May 18th from 11-2 for National Beef Day.

Signed the following payroll change notices:

Department	Name	From	To	Reason	Date / /
Attorney	Kristina Costlow	\$15.79 per hour	\$16.82 per hour	Introductory period complete	04/26/2022
Attorney	Madelin Davis	\$58,540 annual salary	\$61,640 annual salary	Introductory period complete	04/26/2022
Sheriff	Bethany Streeter	\$17.85 per hour	\$17.85 per hour	Full time to part time	05/10/2022
Sheriff	Jeri Wells	\$17.85 per hour	\$17.85 per hour	Part time to less	05/01/2022

				than 20 hours part time	
Sheriff	Chris Miller	\$	\$17.58 per hour	Hired part time	05/01/2022
Sheriff	Betty Strader	\$	\$17.58 per hour	Hired full time	05/01/2022

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas

Ed Kathrens, 1st District

Dan Brenner, 2nd District

Keith Kelly, 3rd District

Attest:

Kathy Mick
Jackson County Clerk